

From: Charles H. Kohler
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/18/02 10:57pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Charles H. Kohler

36 Mayflower Avenue

Williston Park, NY 11596-1518

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft and the Department of Justice recently settled their three year long court battle. I understand there is now a period of public comment, and I wish to add my support to this agreement. I do not think it should have happened in the first place. The lawsuit was more a problem of sour grapes on the part of the competition than any real unfair business dealings. The antitrust laws were created to protect the consumer, yet Microsoft has done nothing but help the consumer. Computer products are far cheaper than they were ten or fifteen years ago; software programs are simpler and easier to understand, and much more affordable to the average consumer. Bill Gates has made software technology part of everyday life.

The agreement reached by Microsoft and the Department of Justice did not let Microsoft off easy. Microsoft has agreed to open up the company in such a way that computer makers will be able to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software programs; companies will be able to achieve a greater degree of reliability with regard to their networking software. And Microsoft has agreed to a technical committee, which will monitor the firm. I doubt other firms would do as much.

It is time to go forward again. We have been through a rough time; but we are bouncing back. Letting Microsoft get back to business is a way to do this. Please give your support to this agreement.

Sincerely,

Charles H Kohler